THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US Government has agreed to sell the radars.

Development of Shakti Engine ALH

2238. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Turbomeca, France based snecma group company have undertaken a joint venture to develop "Shakti" a more powerful engine for India's Advanced Light Helicopter; and

(b) if so, the details of the project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) To meet the requirements of Army & Air Force, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is considering fitment of a more powerful engine for the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). It has been decided to jointly develop a higher-powered engine, named, 'Shakti' with Turbomeca, part of M/s. Snecma Group, France. Detailed discussions have been held and the technical specifications of the engine have been finalised. The draft proposal has been received from M/s. Turbomeca covering, *inter-alia*, co-development and co-production of Shakti engines.

Mandatory approval of CCS for defence purchases

2239. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence has recommended that "no procurement can be made without the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security";

(b) if so, whether Government have received the recommendations of the Committee in this regard;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have agreed to implement the suggestions; and

(d) to what extent existing defence procurement system has revamped?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Government have set up a Defence Acquisition Council and a Defence procurement Board, chaired by the Raksha Mantri and Defence Secretary respectively, with senior level representation of all Departments and Service Headquarters of the Ministry. An arrangement for mandatory and time bound scrutiny of all major procurement cases, worked out in consultation with CVC and C&AG, is in place. The role of authorised Indian representatives/agents of foreign suppliers has been defined and a system of registration laid down. Government have also approved a fast track procedure for procurement of defence equipment which, in the opinion of the Chief of the concerned Service, is required to meet urgent operational needs. In addition, it is the Ministry's constant endeavour to simplify the acquisition process.

Liberalisation of F.S.I. Rules and Bye-laws for construction in Defence Cantonment areas

2240. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise F.S.I. rules and building construction Bye-laws in Defence Cantonment areas by amending the defence Cantonments Act; and

(b) whether Government also propose to make rules for regularisation of unauthorised building constructions in Defence Cantonment areas in pursuance of the amendments to be made in the Defence Cantonments Act?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The proposal to increase the Floor Space Index (FSI) in Cantonment areas by the Ministry has not received favourable response from the Army authorities, the Ministry of Environment & Forests and various Social Environmental Forums.

(b) No, Sir.